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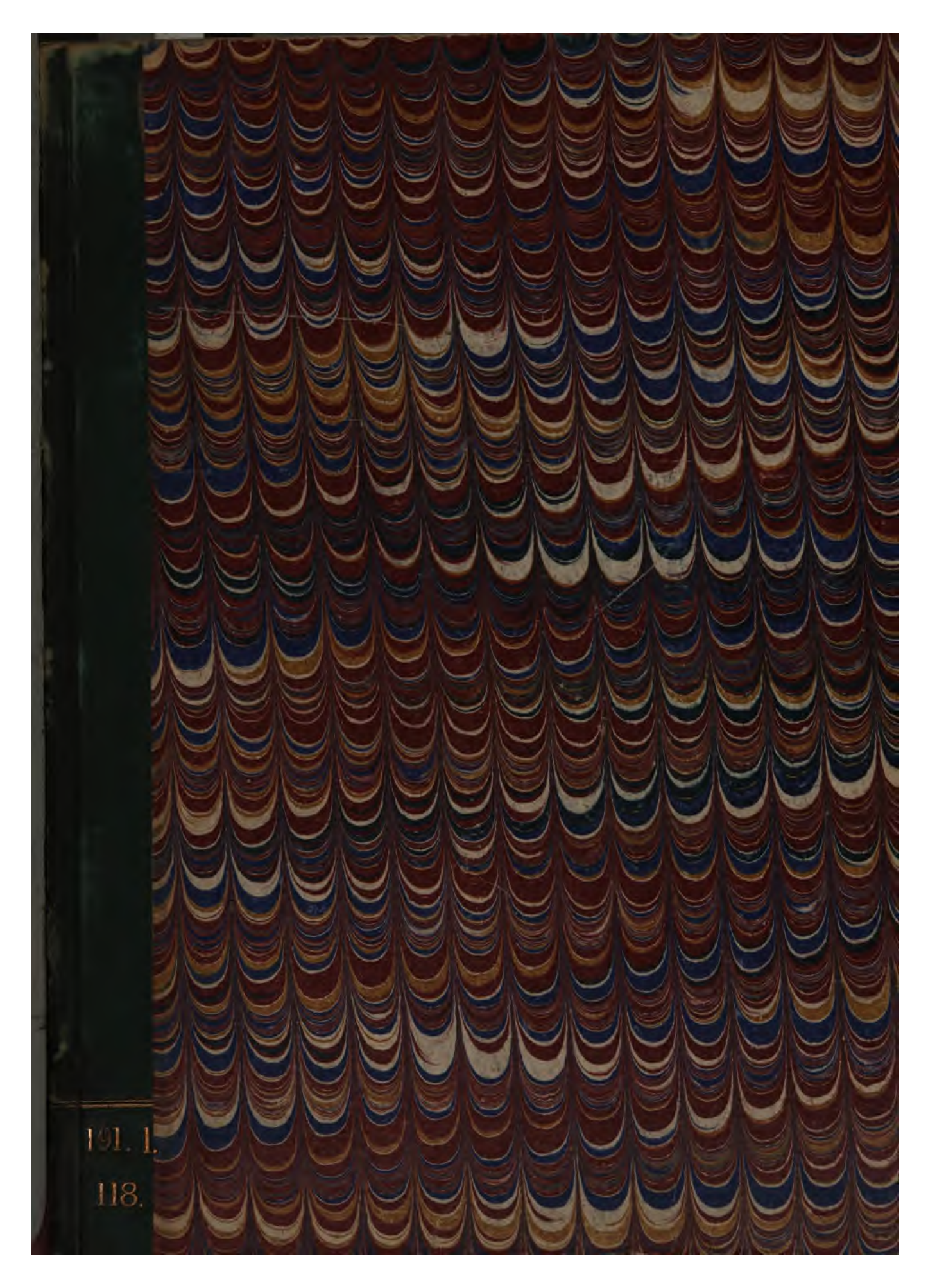
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The image shows a close-up of a marbled paper pattern, likely from an antique book. The pattern consists of numerous vertical, wavy columns of color. The primary colors are a deep, dark brown or burgundy, a vibrant blue, and a light cream or off-white. These colors are layered and blended to create a complex, organic texture that resembles scales or ripples. On the left side of the image, there is a dark, vertical strip, possibly a book binding or a label. In the bottom left corner, within this dark strip, there is gold-stamped text.

191. 1.

118.



MEMOIR
UPON
THE IMPROVEMENT
OF THE
SHEEP AND GOATS OF ITALY
BY
Good Government and Judicious Measures.

"I have been already led to consider the sheep and fleeces of Italy. . . . What is to prevent experienced men improving the breed? The country is well adapted for sheep to a large extent."—*English Letter from Italy*, 1861.

"Though the air may have considerable influence on the bodies of the inhabitants of every climate, and the different constitutions of bodies do differently affect the mind, yet, in many of those we call the worst climates virtuous men have been bred, and not a few of those which we reckon the best climates have produced whole heaps of the basest of men, and many of the very worst and most corrupted governments ever known.

"Italy, though upon the continent, is still but a peninsula, almost encompassed by the sea, and consequently subject to damps and vapours thereof as if an island; yet not only many particular worthy men have sprung from that soil, but good governments, especially that of the Romans, one of the most considerable that ever was in the world.

"The state of the Romans cannot properly be called one, but rather a succession of governments, since few people ever had greater changes in the state, whilst they subsisted, than the Romans.

"The Roman government could never be said to be destroyed until the tyranny ensued, the which in this, as in all other like cases, first ruined the government, and in the end debased the very people, as we see at this day.

"I lay not so much stress on the effect of climates, and other like causes, as some seem to do, but rather judge the giddiness of the people of every nation chiefly to proceed from the nature and influence of their respective governments."—*Writings of Paterson, the founder of the Bank of England*, 2nd Edition, 3 vols., 1860. Edited by Saxe Bannister, M.A., formerly Attorney-General in New South Wales. Vol. ii. p. 35.

NOVEMBER, 1861.

~~180 d 17~~

IN THE PRESS, BY THE AUTHOR OF THIS "MEMOIR."

FORGOTTEN MATERIALS OF MODERN HISTORY;

OR,

THE LIFE OF THE LORD PRIVY SEAL, JOHN ROBINSON,

A FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE,
ENVOY IN SWEDEN FROM 1680 TO 1707; LORD BISHOP OF BRISTOL AND LONDON;
AND AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AT THE NEGOTIATION OF TREATY OF UTRECHT.

AND

NEGOTIATIONS IN 1768, 78,

OF

HIS HOLINESS THE POPE, AND THE BRITISH ENVOY AT TURIN,

FOR A TREATY OF COMMERCE

BETWEEN

ENGLAND AND THE ROMAN STATES.

"In public libraries, in family papers, and in state archives, we possess neglected treasures of the last 170 years, more precious than Mr. Layard's remains of Nineveh—and than the newly-found gold of Australia, North-western America, Nova Scotia, or New Zealand. These treasures belong to high finance, and to the good old cause of civil and religious liberty all over the world—now more than ever calling for warm sympathy and wise support."—*Section 1.*



MEMOIR

UPON

IMPROVING THE SHEEP AND GOATS OF ITALY,

IN WOOL, MOHAIR, AND FOR FOOD.

INCOMPARABLY the grandest event in modern history is the uprising of the Italians as one united people; and every honest effort to strengthen that blessed union will be accepted by their friends with indulgence. With a strong confidence in the correctness of such views, these pages are penned after some personal observation of the advantages of pastoral improvements in various regions; and nothing is here proposed for consideration that has not had experience or authentic information for its basis.

I. *Wool.*

It may be shown that Italy can keep fine-woolled sheep in large numbers, and equal in quality to those of Spain, Germany, America, and the British Colonies. The Italian soil and climate are suited to sheep, and ages ago the Italians possessed fine breeds: nor are successful trials in modern times wanting, to prove how great improvements may be introduced throughout the peninsula and its islands. In the "Annals of Agriculture," edited by the father of British agricultural progress, ARTHUR YOUNG, may be read a series of papers by a professor of Cambridge,* full of invaluable

details upon the soil and climate of all parts of Italy, to justify this assertion. These papers were published in the last century, but they tell of things which, as we now happily know, are capable of wonderful amelioration—Italian shortcomings in all political and industrial arts.

The coarse, hairy sheep now common in Italy, are not inferior to the old stock at the Cape of Good Hope, or to those of Bengal, which sixty years since supplied New South Wales. Both sorts, like the Italian, had little value except for the flesh and milk. Both have become capable of speedy improvement, by judicious crossing with the Merinos, so that the inferior animal soon disappears.

It is not necessary, and would be imprudent, to set the cause of sheep-improvement in Italy upon a statement which has passed from the respectable pages of the "Journal of the Society of Arts,"* to more important columns,† that the Italian peninsula produces NINETY-TWO MILLIONS out of the 364,000,000 exported from all sheep countries. Attention, indeed, is claimed to this statement, from the elaborate

* Papers by Dr. Symonds, Professor of Modern History in Cambridge. "Annals of Agriculture," vol. i., &c. &c. &c.,

* "Journal of the Society of Arts," May, 1860, vol. viii. No. 390, pp. 482—484. Paper on the Chief Fibre-yielding Plants of India, by Dr. J. Forbes Watson.

† "Encyclopædia Britannica," eighth volume. Art. WOOL and WOOLLENS.

and highly interesting character of the address reported in that Journal; but the undoubting adoption of the statement by the writer in the "Encyclopædia," shows how loosely even men of science have hitherto examined this important point of Italian industry.

A subsequent page of the Journal (p. 502, table xiv.) reduces these 92,000,000 of Italian wool-export to proper proportions. Here the greatest quantity imported into the United Kingdom from "Spain, Germany, and *other countries of Europe*," amounts altogether to less than 40,000,000 lbs. weight. This is in 1859, when our own official returns fix the Italian import at 280,000 lbs. In the last century, however, the Roman States exported wool to France to the amount of £64,956, and Naples and Sicily, £180,730 worth.* In 1856, also, France imported from all Italy the amount of £220,000 worth of *raw wool*—NONE COMBED; and Piedmont imported much for its manufactories. At the same time, small quantities reach the German manufacturers through Trieste from Italy.

Like the British Government, the Italian authorities have hitherto neglected agricultural statistics; but these and other sources of information establish the conclusion that the statement referred to is a great error. The Neapolitans, in 1839, exported £3,600 worth only of wool, but they imported it to the value £66,000, besides woollens. Sicily at that time did a little in this trade.†

Mr. Young collected facts which strongly confirm the opinion in favour of the sheep capabilities of Italy, although they certainly place the number of sheep at that time in the country low. The Paduan region possessed 102,000 sheep in 1771; Modena, 329,000, and 35,800 goats; Parma, many sheep.‡

* "Annals of Agriculture," vol. viii. p. 470. From French official papers.

† Bursotti's "Bibliotheca di Commerce," Naples, 1841.

‡ "Young's Travels," 4to., ii. pp. 158, 197.

The vast trade in fine cloths in the thirteenth, fourteenth, and fifteenth centuries, in Florence, rested on wool from England, Spain, Africa, and the East. The numerous factories, and the 30,000 workmen of that rich mart, were not supplied with their wool from the plains of Italy.

II. *Necessity of good laws and liberty to make this trade prosper.*

In the last century Arthur Young laid the true foundations for all Italian progress. He had before received hospitably a Sicilian professor of agriculture sent by the government to study our rural improvements. That enlightened mission is noted by Mr. Young as making "an epoch in the human mind." He is struck by the fact that such a mission should come from "Sicily—that island, the granary of Rome, whose practice the greatest nations considered worthy of imitation when we were barbarians, and hardly worth conquering. What, asks the English philosopher, has made the enormous change? Two words explain it. *We are free—Sicily is enslaved.*"*

The same feeling is warmly expressed by the ingenious Dr. Symonds, in the last century, when recording a fact which is conclusive on the point of the increase of sheep in Italy being fatally prevented. By an ancient law in the Roman States, rigorously acted upon, the occupier of lands the best suited to sheep of the whole region, was forbidden, under severe penalties, to hire his herbage to a stranger.† Dr. Symonds insists warmly, that without liberty, free trade, and good laws the prosperity of Italian agriculture was hopeless.‡

Dr. Symonds shows by a very learned and

* "Travels in France, &c.," 4to., vol. i. p. 237, 1792.

† "Annals of Agriculture," vol. xiii. p. 283, 1790.

‡ *Ib.*, pp. 1—37, 268—305.

acute survey of the history of Italy, and of its actual condition in his time, how the improvement of *sheep*, with other things, must fail through bad laws, and by injudicious measures of the government. The bad laws seem to have outlived all political changes hitherto, and judicious laws are still waited for. He records the natural objections of certain industrious cultivators to their crops and fruit trees being damaged by speculators in sheep. The very same objections were as naturally made thirty years later by the same cultivators in Lombardy, when Prince Eugene Beauharnois, with better intentions than skill, would have distributed 300 Merinos among the *richer* proprietors to encourage the growth of fine wool. "The mischief done by them to the cultivated land prevented the farmers in general favouring the design." It is properly added by the narrator, that "these objections would not apply to the mountainous districts of the Roman, Neapolitan, and Tuscan states. If the proprietors of these districts should attend to the subject it will probably turn out profitably."*

III. *Sheep in Corsica and Majorca.*

In the present absence of official returns of the number of sheep of all sorts in Italy, it will be useful to take that of two islands in the Mediterranean, the most Italian in the character of the land, and of which exact accounts on this head exist. Corsica possesses 250,000 sheep, chiefly the common coarse stock, which gives wool used by the inhabitants, and worth 5*d.* per pound. Some of the sheep are Merinos, and a valuable African sort; from both of which fleeces are clipped, which fetch 10*d.* per pound.†

Majorca is stated by the careful Arthur Young to have produced 472,000 lbs. weight

of wool in 1786, when the lambs reared were 126,942, worth £28,000, besides 31,000 kids worth £7,000. In order to make these numbers a measure for all Spain, Mr. Young adds that the superficial extent of Majorca is $\frac{1}{178}$ of that of the whole country, which would give Spain 83,000,000 lbs. of wool, or 16,000,000 of sheep—not an impossible number in the last century although high: 6,000,000 lbs. of wool are the most we have ever received from Spain in one year.

If this rule be correct, and Corsica, which is thoroughly Italian, be taken as a measure for the sheep of all Italy, the 250,000 in that island must be multiplied forty-fold, and so give 10,000,000 for the peninsula. But taking the Island of Sardinia for the measure, with 600,000 sheep, and being $\frac{1}{10}$ th of the extent of all Italy, the result will be only 6,000,000 for the whole country.*

IV. *Mr. Young's advice.*

Mr. Young advocates a special mode of improving the race of fine-wool bearing sheep, which deserves serious consideration. This recommendation relates to France, where, from the days of Colbert, the government had expended large sums for that object, but to no purpose; but it is strictly applicable to Italy, unless a better plan can be devised.

"If," says Mr. Young, "the government had, for the introduction of Spanish wool, fixed a Spanish farmer, with Spanish shepherds, and a Spanish flock, in such a district as the Crau, in Provence, to enjoy their annual migration, it would have been seen what could be really done in combing wool. And if an Englishman, with a flock of well-chosen Leicester long-woolled sheep, had been fixed in the Pays d'Aux, with 500 lous a year for himself, and

* Sir C. Morgan's "Papers on the Italy of Lady Morgan," 8vo., vol. i., pp. 506—510, 1831.

† Recent private letter (1861).

* Macculloch's "Geographical Dictionary;" eighth edition of the "Encyclopædia Britannica," Art. ITALY, SARDINIA, and CORSICA; Admiral Smyth's "Sardinia."

y other expense provided, it would at once
 been found that as long and as fine
 bing wool may be produced in France as
 England. But such establishments would
 end altogether on the choice of the men.
 some hands the whole expense would be
 own away; in others, not a penny of it
 ild be lost.”*

But without this there is positive evidence
 t, a few leagues from Naples, an Italian
 roprietor possessed many improved sheep half
 century since. Details of his management
 flocks are to be seen in a report by a Swiss
 ent, for whose inspection of them, these
 cks, to the number of 8,000 head, were
 ough down from the mountains for his
 tisfaction.†

V. *Fluctuations in Sheep improvements.*

The progress of all countries in this industry
 as been curiously different.

Spain, which got its sheep from Africa and
 England, in 1806 exported 6,000,000 lbs. of
 the best sort to us; last year, only 15,300 lbs.

Germany, in 1791, sent a few thousand
 pounds to England; last year 12,000,000 lbs.,
 besides its own large consumption of wool of
 all values.

Ireland, where the official statistics are accu-
 rate, had but 2,108,000 of sheep in 1841, had
 3,538,000 in 1860.‡

Scotland had, in 1814, 2,850,000 sheep, and
 in 1859, 3,508,000.

England has carefully encouraged sheep from
 the middle ages, probably from the time of the
 ancient Britons. In 1800, the *estimate* of
 their numbers reached 22,000,000; in 1859,
 29,000,000. But besides there being no official
 statistics for agriculture in England, the esti-

* “Travels,” 4to. vol. i. p. 429.

† “Travels in the Kingdom of Naples.” Translated by
 Mr. Aufran. 8vo. 1804.

‡ “Report” in the *Times*, October, 1861.

mates of the quantity of wool consumed in
 the manufactures of the United Kingdom vary
 much.

Mr. Baines, the member for Leeds, makes
 the quantity 175,000,000; whilst another good
 authority, Mr. Wray, states it at 278,000,000.*

These variations are not to be compared to
 the steady progress from small beginnings in
 recent times in Australia or South Africa,
 where the management of the improved flocks
 is familiar to the English and Dutch colonists;
 and it is well described in many books. The
 Italians can follow the one and study the other;
 so that it may then be boldly asserted that the
 sheep of Italy will, by proper management,
 become profitable, fine-woolled animals.

VI. *The means of improvement in Australia and South Africa.*

The change of the sheep in the British
 colonies has been effected in a few years by the
 introduction of Merino rams, at the expense and
 under the management of individual owners;
 but encouragement by the liberal grant of
 public lands.

AUSTRALIA.

The first decisive step towards the change in
 Australia was taken in about 1804, only fifty-
 seven years ago, by Mr. Macarthur, an officer
 in the English army stationed in New South
 Wales—a man of strong sense, but with no
 special training for agriculture. He saw, in
 1797, the capabilities of the soil and climate,
 and after several years’ success in the manage-
 ment of sheep,—first of the Bengal breed with
 some Cape Merinos,—he obtained in 1805 from
 the royal flock at Windsor four ewes and one
 ram, pure Merinos. King George III. had
 formed that flock.

In the year 1800 the whole number of sheep

* “Journal of the Society of Arts,” May, 1860; and the
 8th vol. “Encyclopædia Britannica,” Art. Wool.

of all sorts in New South Wales amounted to 6,124; in 1813 to 65,121; in 1817 to 170,420.

Mr. Macarthur had pursued his own success steadily after getting the five Merinos; but for several years he stood almost alone. He had, however, convinced the *woollen* manufacturers in England that New South Wales was highly suited to feed the best sheep; and so early as in 1805, by great efforts, the government was led to give Mr. Macarthur a free grant of 5,000 acres of good pasture land for his flocks. His first export of fine wool was 247 lbs. in 1807. Towards 1817 the colonists had begun to follow his example, and of the whole colonial stock of that year—170,000—as many as 10,000 were improved Merinos, half of which belonged to Mr. Macarthur. In 1818, the export of the best wool to England was worth £8,000. High prices encouraged its growth; in 1816, the fleeces got 2s. 6d. per lb.; in 1818, 4s. 6d.; and in 1819, 5s. 6d. One bale of the best cargo, properly sorted and washed, fetched 9s. per lb. at Leeds.

In 1819 the problem was solved whether Australia would produce good wool largely; and in that year the author—who has preserved these facts, with many more details of great interest on the subject—Mr. Wentworth, declared his strong conviction to be, that in twenty years—in 1839—the export of that single produce, fine wool, would be of the value of one million sterling.* This was the turning-point in the fortunes of Australia. In 1839, that export was 9,000,000 lbs. (the million sterling foretold); and in 1860 it had reached two and a half millions sterling. Mr. Wentworth's volume, here quoted, has other great merits; and it is gratifying to record that he is still living to witness the prosperity of his native land. He is one of those worthies who has done much to realise that prediction. Very simple means have produced those great results

* "New South Wales," by W. C. Wentworth, Esq. (a native of the colony), 8vo., 1819, p. 277.

—viz., good management of improved flocks by individual owners, and plenty of cheap pastures in a fine climate.

Moreover, the capital point insisted upon by Mr. Wentworth—the allowance of the usual British guarantees for good rule—was soon gained. Liberty and legality became more and more respected in the Australias, great as were still the obstacles to constitutional government all our colonies had to contend against.

Besides Mr. Macarthur's free grants of land in 1805, he obtained further tracts as his flocks increased, and all other colonists with capital long shared the advantage. At length the settled lands were sold at a considerable price, but the owners of flocks still have licenses to *occupy* long tracks on easy terms.

In 1824 an English company, the Australian Agricultural Company, got 1,000,000 of acres in New South Wales, in order to extend free colonization there by the investment of £100,000 sterling on the settlement. Circumstances have favoured this undertaking; but its results do not justify Australian sheep-farming by a company, which cannot devote the necessary care for its success.

The general result in Australia is that from an export of *nil* in 1800, the best wool has risen to 50,000,000 lbs. in 1860.

THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

This colony has had its Macarthur in the worthy Mr. Breda, a Dutch colonist, who died a few years since, a member of the Legislative Council of the Cape colony.

Towards the end of the Dutch government of the settlement, a Scottish officer of their service, Colonel Gordon, the discoverer of the Orange River region, understood perfectly the capabilities of South Africa for fine-woolled sheep. By his influence a flock of Merinos was sent to the Cape. The war, which changed its masters, interrupted his excellent design, which was abandoned for thirty years; but some of his

improved animals found their way to New South Wales, to be appreciated properly by the sagacious Captain Macarthur.

Mr. Breda began the improvements of his own coarse flocks near Cape Town before 1829, but it was only in about that year that his good example was much followed.

South Africa had the advantage of the colony being already full of the common sheep, and the new enterprise was quickly taken up by the new British settlers, then getting over their first difficulties in the eastern districts of the Cape colony.

Fine-woolled sheep-husbandry has accordingly prospered at an extraordinary rate in South Africa, in defiance of all obstacles. The government was long little aware of its importance: so late as 1840, the colonial office in Downing Street declared deliberately that the Cape of Good Hope offers no resources, and accordingly excluded it from the rich fields of colonization at that time opening for modern British enterprise beyond sea.

Lands have, however, been liberally given to the sheep farmers in South Africa, and the export of fine wool from that region to England has risen from 120 lbs. in 1800, to 13,000 in 1820; and from 750,000 in 1840, to 17,000,000 lbs. last year.

Even the native tribes have begun to be owners of fine-woolled flocks. Some bales were sold in London lately from Caffre chiefs; as in New Zealand, where the English colonists pursue sheep-farming with great success, the natives also perfectly understand its advantages, and profit by them.

VII. *The cost and profit of an Australian flock of improved sheep in 1817, 1818, 1819.*

Mr. Wentworth gives this detailed debtor and credit account of an Australian flock, which may be taken as a guide for any country, *mutatis mutandis*.

		FIRST YEAR.	
1817.	Dr.		
Jan. 1.	Price of 330 ewes and rams	£1	
Dec. 31.	Net value at the end of the year		£1
Cr.			
	Net value of wool		
	Profit of stock		—
		Total profit	
		SECOND YEAR.	
1818.	Dr.		
Jan. 1.	Value of stock	£1	
Dec. 31.	Net value at the end of the year		£1
Cr.			
	Net value of wool		
	Profit of stock		—
		Total profit	
		THIRD YEAR.	
1819.	Dr.		
Jan. 1.	Value of stock	£1	
	Net value at the end of the year		£1
Cr.			
	Net value of wool		
	Profit of stock		—
			£

VIII. *Increasing demand for fine wool.*

Throughout Europe, for its own consumption and for the extending trade with China and other countries, the want of fine wool is tending daily. The import of this article into England since 1800 has increased from 1,000,000 lbs. weight, to 147,000,000 lbs in 1860. Of this vast quantity, the British colonies supply more than 77,000,000 lbs.; as above shown, Italy sends only 280,000 lbs of which half comes from the Black Sea and the Levant, leaving about £10,000 worth to be exported from the Peninsula, besides exports to France and Germany.

IX. *How Italy may largely share in this progress.*

That Italy shall take her proper place in this rich field of industry cannot fail of consideration by her statesmen.

It is believed that her *territorial* resources like those which contributed so much to

* Mr. Wentworth's "New South Wales," p. 412.

early progress of fine-wool husbandry in Australia and South Africa, will command a similar success throughout Italy. With her hills and her wastes granted free in proportion to the capital invested by trustworthy men in the introduction of the best German and other male sheep, such men would set an example to be speedily followed throughout the country. A combination of intelligent Italians and foreigners would secure success to this plan; and, further, give the confidence to raise the capital required for its extensive execution.

A powerful company of that mixed character can be formed at once on this basis; and its operations may be reasonably calculated according to the following scheme of accounts, with a condition to limit the price and hire of the imported male sheep, so as to give dividends not exceeding 10 per cent. per ann. on the paid-up capital:—

1862.				
Importation of	50 of the best German rams at £50 =	£2,500		
„	50 „ 2nd class „ 25 =	1,250		
„	500 „ 3rd class „ 10 =	5,000		
„	1,000 „ 4th class „ 8 =	8,000		
Cost of rams imported			£11,750	
Cost of keepers, buildings, and superintendence			2,000	
Total			£13,750	

ESTABLISHMENTS ON FREE GRANTS OF PUBLIC LANDS.

1 in the Island of Sardinia; 1 in Piedmont; 2 in Naples; 2 in Sicily; and 5 more in Lombardy, Tuscany, and the other provinces.

The second year's operations would be regulated by the success of the first sale and hiring of the superior stock; and in subsequent years, either the company, or other speculators, would be encouraged to supply the whole country to its utmost wants.

The free grants of land will protect the company against a dead loss, and Italy find its compensation for that appropriation of a moderate extent of its mountain land by a happy revolution in its industry.

X. *Angora goats; and improvement of the flocks of Italy for food.*

The foregoing hints are limited to sheep's wool; but the same inquiries lead to the like satisfactory conclusions in favour of means to improve the hundreds of thousands of Italian goats by introducing the Angora sort; and of raising the character both of goats and sheep for food.

Good government, free trade, judicious public measures, and the careful energy of private individuals may, it is believed, be safely relied upon to multiply steadily and extensively the wealth and well-being of the people of Italy on these heads.

The classical treasures of her libraries are rich in the works of her early writers *de re rustica*. It would be a practical step in the same direction to present the Italian people, in their present great trial, with cheap editions of well-selected books on the subject of this Memoir.

In the Italian official gazette, so late as the 19th ult., the Minister of Agriculture announces measures in progress for obtaining exact accounts of all the territorial resources of Italy, and for promoting its whole industry in earnest. It may then be hoped with reason, that the foregoing statement will be received as no useless contribution to Italian progress on the subjects here slightly examined.



